



Governor's Policy Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Introduction

California's large and diverse population has made this state one of the largest alcohol and drug-consuming states in the nation. It is estimated that in the State of California alone, the cost to society is more than \$14 billion a year due to the problems associated with alcohol and other drugs. This fact, coupled with California's large geographical area, has encouraged the development of numerous intrastate drug trafficking organizations which exist primarily to exploit the California market. In recent years, however, this activity has expanded to meet a national market demand.

The Governor's Policy Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse (GPC) was established to develop a unified and integrated strategy aimed at combatting the complicated array of problems posed by alcohol and other drugs. Each year, the GPC prepares and submits to the Governor an integrated plan for alcohol and drug abuse enforcement, treatment, and prevention programs and services. The GPC also ensures the effective implementation of these programs, along with the cost-effective expenditure of state and federal funds. The GPC carries out its responsibilities through its headquarters located within the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs in Sacramento.

History

Recognizing the need for a comprehensive and coordinated framework to ensure the success of California's drug control strategy, the Governor's Policy Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse (GPC) was established in February of 1988, by Executive Order.

The Director of California's Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs serves as Chair of the GPC and is responsible for coordinating statewide activities to ensure that California's programs and policies for addressing alcohol and other drugs are nonduplicative, well-planned, and coordinated.

The GPC draws on the expertise of 17 different state entities to coordinate California's drug control activities. Specifically, the secretaries and directors of the following state departments and offices form and constitute the Governor's Policy Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse:

- Department of Justice
- Department of Education
- California Health & Human Services Agency
- Office of Child Development & Education
- Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Health Services
- California National Guard
- Department of Mental Health
- Office of Traffic Safety
- Department of Youth Authority
- Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
- Department of Commerce
- Department of California Highway Patrol
- Office of Criminal Justice Planning
- Department of Aging
- Department of Social Services

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